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Intelligence Information Cable

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GROUP 1
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CITE

15 OCT 70 21 16Z

DIST 15 OCTOBER 1970

COUNTRY SWEDEN/VIETNAM/INTERNATIONAL

Schoenman-1019

DOI OCTOBER 1970

SUBJECT WAR CRIMES CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL

LIAISON COMMITTEE (ILC) IN STOCKHOLM

ACQ

FIELD NO.

SOURCE

1. ALTHOUGH PLANS ARE STILL NOT COMPLETED, THE FORM OF THE INTERNATIONAL LIAISON COMMITTEE OF THE STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM (ILC) WAR CRIMES COMMISSION CONFERENCE IS BEGINNING TO TAKE SHAPE. FINAL PLANS WILL BE MADE WHEN THE LEADERS OF THE VARIOUS COUNTRY DELEGATIONS GATHER IN STOCKHOLM ON 16 OCTOBER. THE CONFERENCE WILL BEGIN WITH A CLOSED SESSION ON 22 OCTOBER TO BE FOLLOWED BY TWO DAYS OF SESSIONS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC; THE FINAL DAY ON 25 OCTOBER WILL AGAIN BE CLOSED.

2. AFTER DELEGATION LEADERS ARRIVE, A RECEPTION IN THEIR

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HONOR WILL BE HELD AT THE HOTEL MALMEN ON 16 OCTOBER. SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER OLOF PALME AND FOREIGN MINISTER TORSTEN NILSSON HAVE BEEN INVITED TO THE RECEPTION AND THE ILC HOPES THAT ONE OF THEM WILL ATTEND. ☐ COMMENT: BOTH ARE LIKELY TO BE IN THE UNITED STATES ON THAT DATE TO TAKE PART IN ACTIVITIES CONNECTED WITH THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.)

3. THE ILC OFFICE IS ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE AN APPEARANCE OF SEVERAL OF THE LEADING INDO-CHINESE DELEGATES BEFORE THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENT. THERE ARE ALSO PLANS FOR A LARGE PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT THE PUBLICISTS KLUBBEN IN STOCKHOLM ON 19 OCTOBER. THIS PRESS CONFERENCE WILL PREVIEW THE EXPECTED TESTIMONY AND WILL BE DESIGNED TO HEIGHTEN INTEREST IN TELEVISION COVERAGE OF THE OPEN PORTIONS OF THE CONFERENCE. SWEDISH RADIO'S TV CHANNEL 2 WILL HAVE THREE CAMERAS IN THE CONFERENCE SITE. ☐ COMMENT: THE PRESS HAS ANNOUNCED THAT TV 2 WILL FEATURE SUMMARIES OF THE CONFERENCE'S PROCEEDINGS AFTER THE CLOSE OF REGULAR PROGRAMMING ON 23 AND 24 OCTOBER.) ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE FOR SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION OF ALL TESTIMONY INTO FRENCH AND ENGLISH.

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4. THE CONFERENCE WILL FEATURE SEVERAL FILMS MADE IN NORTH VIETNAM WHICH SHOW OSTENSIBLE AMERICAN WAR CRIMES. THERE WILL ALSO BE TESTIMONY BY SEVERAL AMERICAN DESERTERS, SOME OF WHOM ARE COMING FROM CANADA FOR THIS PURPOSE. ADDITIONALLY, THE CONFERENCE WILL HEAR A REPORT ON TWO NEW WEAPONS WHICH ARE BEING USED BY AMERICAN TROOPS IN VIETNAM. CONCURRENTLY WITH THE CONFERENCE, A PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTARY EXHIBITION WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE ABF Huset LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN STOCKHOLM. COMMENT: THIS IS A TRADE UNION-OWNED CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION HALL.)

5. THE BULK OF THE EVIDENCE SUBMITTED TO THE CONFERENCE WILL CONSIST OF A REPORT BY HANS-GORAN FRANK, WELL-KNOWN SWEDISH LAWYER AND SUPPORTER OF VIETNAM CAUSES, WHO TRAVELLED TO NORTH VIETNAM IN JULY AND AUGUST TO GATHER EVIDENCE. FRANK'S REPORT HAS BEEN CRITICIZED WITHIN THE ILC SECRETARIAT AS BEING TOO VAGUE, NOT BASED ON INTERNATIONAL AND CRIMINAL LEGAL THEORY, AND LACKING CONCLUSIONS. THE REPORT IS NOW BEING TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH AND CERTAIN CORRECTIONS ARE BEING MADE TO GIVE THE REPORT A STRONGER LEGAL AND THEORETICAL BASIS. ONE OF THE STRONGEST CRITICS OF THE REPORT HAS BEEN

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ALEXANDER BERKOV, SOVIET MEMBER OF THE ILC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. BERKOV HAS ARRANGED FOR A SOVIET LEGAL EXPERT TO COME TO STOCKHOLM, AND BERKOV AND THIS EXPERT HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH FRANCK TO ADD "JUDICIAL AUTHORITY" TO THE REPORT WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE OPEN CONFERENCE. FRANCK'S REPORT INCLUDES NOTES MADE FROM INTERVIEWS WITH DOWNED AMERICAN PILOTS NOW IN NORTH VIETNAM.

6. A FINAL CHOICE FOR SECRETARY GENERAL OF A CONTINUING WAR CRIMES INQUIRY COMMISSION HAS NOT BEEN MADE AS YET. AMONG THE SWEDES BEING CONSIDERED ARE FRANCK, DR. JOHN TAKMAN, NEWLY ELECTED COMMUNIST MEMBER OF THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENT AND A MEMBER OF THE ILC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND BERTIL SVAHNSTROM, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE ILC.

COMMENT:

DATED 11 JUNE 1970,

REPORTED THAT TAKMAN WOULD BE THE CONFERENCE'S MEDICAL EXPERT. HE COLLECTED MEDICAL EVIDENCE OF AMERICAN "ATROCITIES" DURING TRIPS TO NORTH VIETNAM IN 1969 AND 1970. SVAHNSTROM IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ILC.) THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THIS COMMISSION WILL BE ASSISTED BY THREE "EXECUTIVES", ONE SWEDISH, ONE AMERICAN AND ONE SOVIET. THESE INDIVIDUALS HAVE NOT BEEN SELECTED AS

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YET BUT THE AMERICAN LAWYERS COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ASKED TO
RAISE MONEY FOR A YOUNG AMERICAN LAWYER TO FILL ONE OF
THE ROLES. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE WORK OF THIS INQUIRY
COMMISSION WOULD BE DONE PRIMARILY THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE
AND COORDINATED BY THE ILC OFFICE IN STOCKHOLM.

7. FIELD DISSEM: STATE

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